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Sub 2

13. (Twice Amended) [A] An aqueous composition for precipitating nucleic acids, the composition comprising: an indicator molecule coupled to a carrier molecule [capable of co-precipitating from], said carrier conjugate co-precipitates nucleic acid molecules from an aqueous solution [with a nucleic acid molecule, the aqueous solution comprising an amount of a] along with sufficient salt and [an amount of an] alcohol [sufficient to cause the nucleic acid to precipitate from the solution; and an indicator molecule coupled to the carrier molecule] to effect said co-precipitation.

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18. (Amended) A composition as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the indicator molecule [comprises a primary] and the carrier molecule are coupled via an amine [group] linkage.

#### REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed November 18, 1998, the Examiner in charge of the application reopened prosecution that was previously suspended due to a potential interference. The Examiner withdrew the indicated allowability of Claims 13-24 in view of newly discovered references. The Examiner also imposed rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph of Claims 8 and 13-24. A rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) was imposed against Claims 1-5, 7 and 8. Claims 6 and 9-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In view of the amendments noted above and the arguments presented herein, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the merits of this patent application.

Each ground of rejection is considered separately below.

#### Rejections Under §112, second paragraph

Rejections of Claims 8 and 18 as vague and indefinite are addressed by reciting that in the particular embodiments claimed in Claims 8 and 18 the indicator molecule and the carrier molecule are coupled via an amine linkage. This can be